

**CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT-ATHLETE NAMED
GATORADE VERMONT FOOTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (January 6, 2023) — In its 38th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, Gatorade today announced **Jackson Sumner** of **Champlain Valley Union High School** is the **2022-23 Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year**. Sumner is the first Gatorade Vermont Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Champlain Valley Union High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the field, distinguishes Sumner as Vermont's best high school football player. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Football Player of the Year award to be announced in January, Sumner joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Trevor Lawrence (2018-19 & 2016-17, Cartersville High School, Ga.), Matthew Stafford (2005-06, Highland Park High School, Texas) and Emmitt Smith (1986-87, Escambia High School, Fla.).

The 5-foot-9, 180-pound junior wide receiver and defensive back was a force for the Redhawks (10-1) en route to a Division I state championship, amassing 1,271 all-purpose yards and 23 touchdowns. Sumner was a versatile option, catching 47 passes for 681 yards and 14 touchdowns, and also rushing for 590 yards and nine touchdowns. He was especially impactful during Champlain Valley Union High School's postseason run, piling up 504 total yards and 11 touchdowns in three tournament games.

Sumner has volunteered locally at the Charlotte Central School and is also a talented track and field athlete. "Jack is as dedicated to his craft as any young man I've ever met," said Champlain Valley Union High School coach Rahn Fleming. "He served his team on offense, defense and special teams. He was as likely to win a battle for the ball on a pass reception as on an interception."

Sumner has maintained a 3.14 GPA in the classroom. He will begin his senior year of high school this fall.

The [Gatorade Player of the Year](#) program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by the Gatorade Player of the Year Selection Committee, which leverages experts including coaches, scouts, media and others as sources to help evaluate and determine the state winners in each sport.

Sumner joins recent Gatorade Vermont Football Players of the Year Slade Postemski (2021-22, Rutland High School), Gavin Johnson (2020-21, Mount Anthony Union High School), Joey McCoy (2019-20, Burr & Burton Academy), and Jake Cady (2018-19, St. Johnsbury Academy), among the state's list of former award winners.

Being a Gatorade Player of the Year means paying it forward for the next generation. Through Gatorade's Play it Forward initiative, every Player of the Year receives a grant to give to one of Gatorade's social impact partners, supporting Gatorade's ambition to fuel the future of sport. To date, Gatorade Player of the Year winners' grants have totaled more than \$3.5 million across more than 1,300 organizations.

For nearly 40 years, Gatorade has honored high school athletes at the top of their game as teammates, supporting their communities and achieving academic success. From CEOs and coaches to star athletes and community leaders, Gatorade Player of the Year winners showcase the power of sport.

To learn more about the Gatorade Player of the Year program, check out past winners or to nominate student-athletes, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com or follow us on social media on Facebook at facebook.com/GatoradePOY, Instagram at instagram.com/Gatorade and Twitter at twitter.com/Gatorade.

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